

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Michael A. Lassner

Group Art Unit: 2182

Serial No.: 10/700,126

Examiner: Hassan, Aurangzeb

Filed: November 3, 2003

Docket No. 200311849-1

For: **Systems and Methods for Implementing Device Regionalization**

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief-Patents
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P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

This Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed November 3, 2006, responding to the Final Office Action mailed August 10, 2006.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required to consider this Appeal Brief. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no known related appeals or interferences that will affect or be affected by a decision in this Appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 11, 13, 14, and 20-23 have been canceled leaving claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15-19, and 24-28 remaining. Of those remaining claims, claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24-28 stand finally rejected. No claims have been allowed. The final rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24-28 are appealed.

IV. Status of Amendments

This application was originally filed on November 3, 2003, with twenty-eight (28) claims. In a Response filed February 7, 2006, Applicant amended claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15-19, 24-28, and canceled claims 2, 11, 13, 14, and 20-23.

All of the above-identified amendments have been entered and no other amendments have been made to any of claims 1, 3-10, 12, 15-19, and 24-28. The claims in the attached Claims Appendix (see below) reflect the present state of those claims.

V. Summary of Disclosure and Claimed Subject Matter

Generally speaking, Applicant's disclosure describes systems, methods, devices, and drivers for implementing device "regionalization" that reduces the opportunity for consumers to use grey market components with devices that are intended for use within a specified geographical area. In some embodiments of the invention, a distributor packs an encoded component, such as a print cartridge, along with a device before it is shipped. The component is "encoded" in that it comprises a region code that identifies a geographical region in which the device is intended to be sold and used. Once the consumer purchases the device and installs the encoded component within the device, the device reads the region code from the component and "locks" the geographical region for the peripheral device such that only components intended for that geographical region can be used with the device.

The claimed inventions are summarized below with reference numerals and references to the written description ("specification") and drawings. The subject matter described in the following appears in the original disclosure at least where indicated, and may further appear in other places within the original disclosure.

Independent claim 1 describes a method for implementing device regionalization. The method comprises identifying with a peripheral device a region code stored on a

component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 14-18; Figure 4, item 408. The method of claim 1 further comprises setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 18-21; Figure 4, item 412.

Independent claim 10 describes a system (314, Figure 3) for implementing device regionalization that executes on a peripheral device. The system comprises means provided on the peripheral device for reading a region code embedded within a device component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 14-18; Figure 4, item 408. The system of claim 10 further comprises means provided on the peripheral device for setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device. *Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 18-21; Figure 4, item 412.

Independent claim 16 describes a system (314, Figure 3) stored on a computer-readable storage medium. The system comprises logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines 19-20; Figure 5, item 504. The system of claim 16 further comprises logic configured to store the read region code within peripheral device memory. *Applicant's specification*, page 12, lines 20-22; Figure 5, item 506. The system of claim 16 further comprises logic configured to

provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

Applicant's specification, page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 2.

Independent claim 24 describes a peripheral device (104, Figure 3). The device comprises a processing device. Figure 3, item 300. The system of claim 24 further comprises memory (302, Figure 3) including a region identification system (314, Figure 3) that is configured to read a region code from an encoded component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region (*Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 14-18; Figure 4, item 408), and to set a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device (*Applicant's specification*, page 10, lines 18-21; Figure 4, item 412).

Independent claim 27 describes a device driver (214, Figure 2) stored on a computer-readable storage medium (202, Figure 2). The driver comprises a component identification module (216, Figure 2) that is configured to receive a region code from a peripheral device that is controlled by the device driver, the region code identifying a particular geographical region (*Applicant's specification*, page 14, lines 15-18; Figure 6, item 604), to access a database using the region code and a device model to determine the components that pertain to the geographical region and the peripheral device and therefore are available for use with the peripheral device (*Applicant's specification*, page 14, lines 18-20; Figure 6, item 606), and to identify the determined components to a device user (*Applicant's specification*, page 15, lines 9-11; Figure 6, item 608).

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following ground of rejection is to be reviewed on appeal:

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Walker, et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,494,562) in view of *Maehara* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0125393).

VII. Arguments

A. Introduction

As stated above, Applicant's disclosure describes systems, methods, devices, and drivers for implementing device "regionalization" that reduces the opportunity for consumers to use grey market components with devices that are intended for use within a specified geographical area. In some embodiments of the invention, a distributor packs an encoded component, such as a print cartridge, along with a device before it is shipped. The component is "encoded" in that it comprises a region code that identifies a geographical region in which the device is intended to be sold and used. Once the consumer purchases the device and installs the encoded component within the device, the device reads the region code from the component and "locks" the geographical region on the peripheral device such that only components intended for that geographical region can be used with the device.

As described in the following, the applied references do not teach or suggest anything that even approaches Applicant's systems, methods, devices, or drivers. For that reason, the references fail to render Applicant's claims, which are directed to those systems, methods, devices, and drivers, obvious. Applicant discusses the rejections in the following.

B. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Walker, et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,494,562) in view of *Maehara* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0125393). Applicant notes that the Examiner withdrew the

rejections of claims 6, 15, and 18 in the Advisory Action. As such, Applicant does not provide arguments regarding those claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24-28.

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant’s disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, and there is no suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify the references to include those limitations.

1. The Walker Disclosure

Walker discloses a method and apparatus for identifying a sales channel. *Walker*, Patent Title. As described by Walker, a component in a printer stores *seller information* identifying a seller of the printer component. *Walker*, column 3, lines 13-17. When the printer component is exhausted or when a user requests seller information, the printer retrieves the seller information from the printer component and provides it to the user, for example in the display of the printer. *Walker*, column 4, lines 11-18; column 5, lines 10-28.

2. The Maehara Disclosure

Maehara discloses a problem monitoring/reporting system used in an image reproducing apparatus. *Maehara*, paragraphs 0045-0046. When a problem occurs with the apparatus, the apparatus reports the problem to a terminal device. *Maehara*, paragraph 0046. In reporting the problem, various information can be conveyed, including “location information” of the apparatus. *Maehara*, paragraph 0059.

3. Applicant’s Claims

a. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9

Applicant’s claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

1. A method for implementing device regionalization, comprising:

identifying with a peripheral device a region code stored on a component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region; and

setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code.

(i) No Motivation to Combine/Modify

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that there is absolutely no suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify Walker's system with the teachings of Maehara. More particularly, there is no suggestion or motivation in the prior art to store "location information" that identifies the location of a device on Walker's printer. As described above, Walker's printer stores *seller information* that can be provided to a user when a printer component is exhausted and needs to be reordered. Walker, however, is not concerned with "reporting problems" as in the Maehara reference. Therefore, the Examiner's argument that a person having ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to store "location information" in Walker's printer lacks merit. First, the user to whom the seller information is provided in Walker's system presumably already knows where the printer is given that the user already uses the printer. Second, Walker only describes providing the information stored on the printer to the user *at the printer*. See *Walker*, column 5, lines 18-28. It therefore would not make any sense whatsoever to provide "location information" that identifies *the location of the printer* to the user when the user is *already standing in front of the printer*. From the above, it appears clear that the true motivation for the combination and associated modification is provided by Applicant's own specification and a desire to find a way to reject Applicant's claims. As is well established in the law, such hindsight to the Applicant's own disclosure is *per se* improper. See *Crown Operations International, Ltd. v. Solutia, Inc.*, 289 F.3d 1367, 62 USPQ2d 1917 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (a determination of obviousness cannot be based on a hindsight

combination of components selectively culled from the prior art to fit the parameters of the invention).

(ii) No Teaching/Suggestion of Identifying a “Region Code”

Turning to the merits of claim 1, the cited references clearly do not render obvious identifying with a peripheral device a “region code” stored on a component installed within the peripheral device that identifies a “particular geographical region”. First, Walker only teaches storing seller information on a component, not any “region code”. Second, although Maehara teaches storing “location information,” meaning information as to where the device is so that the device can be located, Maehara does not describe that “location information” as identifying a “particular geographical region”. To the contrary, it appears clear that Maehara’s “location information” merely relates to where the printer is within a given organization to enable an administrator or other person to locate the device when it requires service. Even if one were to take an unduly broad interpretation of “geographical” to encompass the geography of a given business location (e.g., building and floor), Applicant submits that Maehara’s “location information” could not reasonably be interpreted as comprising a “geographical region”. Specifically, if only a general geographical “region” were specified in the error report generated by the device experiencing the error, an administrator would have a very difficult time in “locating” that device.

In view of the above, neither Walker nor Maehara actually teaches identifying with a peripheral device a region code stored on a component installed within the peripheral device that identifies a particular geographical region. Applicant further

asserts that the two references when considered together further fail to suggest such identification. Again, Walker is only concerned with identifying a *seller* of an exhausted component to facilitate replacement of the component, while Maehara is only concerned with reporting device problems and aiding an administrator or other technician in locating the device that requires service. In view of that, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to provide a "region code" on Walker's printer.

(iii) No Teaching/Suggestion of "Setting a Geographical Region"

Applicant further asserts that the references do not teach or suggest "setting a geographical region for the peripheral device" to be the geographical region identified by the region code. Regarding the Walker reference, Walker does not describe "setting" *anything* for a peripheral device. Instead, Walker merely describes providing information as to the seller of an exhausted component. Nothing is "set" on the peripheral device, however, given that the user can choose to purchase from that seller *or any other seller*. As for the Maehara reference, Maehara only describes identifying where a peripheral device is. Nothing is "set" on Maehara's peripheral device either. Indeed, if the peripheral device were moved (e.g., to another floor of the building), that peripheral device would still continue to identify the previous location given that no "setting" on the peripheral device changes.

Again, the reason why Walker and Maehara fail to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 is that *neither Walker nor Maehara is concerned with setting a geographical region for a device to ensure that only certain components designated for that region*

can be used with the device. In view of that fact, the teachings of Walker and Maehara cannot reasonably be interpreted to account for the limitations of Applicant's claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 and its dependents are allowable over the cited combination.

(iv) Dependent Claims

Applicant further asserts that the claims that depend from claim 1 contain further limitations that are not taught or suggested by Walker and Maehara. Regarding dependent claim 4, Walker does not, as argued by the Examiner, store information already stored on the device component on the device itself. Instead, Walker's printer merely (i) reads the information from the component and (ii) displays it for the user. That is why Applicant noted above that Walker's printer does not "set" anything on the printer. As to the Examiner's argument that Walker teaches that the seller information is "stored on the peripheral device" in contrast with the component itself, Walker simply does not provide that teaching. Applicant notes that the only support the Examiner identifies for his argument is "figure 1." That figure shows no seller information stored on the illustrated peripheral device.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Walker does not, as suggested by the Examiner, "lock" any information on the printer and neither reference teaches or suggests locking a "region code" "such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device". As to the latter limitation, neither Walker nor Maehara even comes close to teaching or suggesting controlling a device so that only certain components can be used with it. As to the Examiner's argument that Walker

teaches a “locked region” of sellers, Applicant again notes that nothing is “locked” on Walker’s peripheral device. The consumer is therefore free to buy a replacement component from the identified seller or anyone else. Furthermore, column 8, lines 16-39 of the Walker reference, which are relied upon by the Examiner, do not teach or suggest such locking. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant requests that the Examiner specifically identify the language contained within column 8, lines 16-39 that provide that teaching or suggestion.

Regarding dependent claim 8, neither reference teaches or suggests “accessing a database on the user computer that cross-references the region code with components available for use with the peripheral device to identify components that can be presented to a user for purchase”. First, as described above, neither Walker nor Maehara even contemplates the concept of a “region code”. At best, Maehara identifies the location of an imaging device to facilitate location and repair of the device. Second, neither Walker nor Maehara discloses using such a code to locate components identified in a “database”.

Regarding dependent claim 9, neither reference teaches or suggests “providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer and wherein accessing a database comprises accessing the database with the device driver”. Indeed, as confirmed by a computerized word search, neither reference even discusses a “driver” used in conjunction with a printing device. As to the Examiner’s argument in the Advisory Action that a peripheral device must be operated by a driver, Applicant notes that such a fact still would not account for the claimed action of “providing the

region code to a device driver". Simply stated, not only do the references fail to describe a driver, they further fail to teach "providing" a "region code" to such a driver.

b. Claims 10 and 12

Applicant's claim 10 provides as follows (emphasis added):

10. A system for implementing device regionalization that executes on a peripheral device, the system comprising:

means provided on the peripheral device for reading a region code embedded within a device component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region; and

means provided on the peripheral device for setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

As an initial matter, Applicant reiterates that there is no legitimate suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify Walker's system with the teachings of Maehara.

Turning to the merits of claim 10, neither reference teaches or suggests "means provided on the peripheral device for reading a region code embedded within a device component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region" or "means provided on the peripheral device for setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device" at least for reasons described above in relation to claim 1.

Regarding dependent claim 12, neither reference teaches or suggests “means for providing the region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer” for reasons described in relation to claim 9 above.

c. Claims 16, 17, and 19

Applicant's claim 16 provides as follows (emphasis added):

16. A system stored on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising:

logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region;

logic configured to store the read region code within peripheral device memory; and

logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

As an initial matter, Applicant reiterates that there is no legitimate suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify Walker's system with the teachings of Maehara.

Turning to the merits of claim 16, neither reference teaches or suggests “logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region”, “logic configured to store the read region code within peripheral device memory”, or “logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer” at least for reasons described above in relation to claim 1. Again, the information stored on Walker's printer component is not described as also being stored in “memory” of

Walker's printer. Instead, the information is simply read from a printer component (e.g., ink cartridge) by Walker's printer and presented to the user. Also, neither reference even discusses a "device driver".

Regarding dependent claim 17, neither reference teaches or suggests logic configured to "lock the region code on the peripheral device, such that only components intended for sale in the identified geographical region can be used with the peripheral device" for reasons described above in relation to claim 5.

Regarding dependent claim 19, neither reference teaches or suggests logic configured "provide the region code to the device driver when the device driver communicates with the peripheral device to send the peripheral device a print job" for reasons described in relation to claim 9. Again, neither reference even mentions a driver, much less providing geographical information to the driver when the driver sends a "print job" to the peripheral device.

d. Claims 24-26

Applicant's claim 24 provides as follows (emphasis added):

24. A peripheral device, comprising:
a processing device; and
memory including a region identification system that is configured to *read a region code from an encoded component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region, and to set a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.*

As an initial matter, Applicant reiterates that there is no legitimate suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify Walker's system with the teachings of Maehara.

Turning to the merits of claim 24, neither reference teaches or suggests a "region identification system that is configured to "read a region code from an encoded component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region" or to "set a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device" at least for reasons described above in relation to claim 1.

Regarding dependent claim 26, neither reference teaches or suggests setting a region code "after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the peripheral device" for reasons described above in relation to claim 6.

e. Claims 27 and 28

Applicant's claim 27 provides as follows (emphasis added):

27. A *device driver* stored on a computer-readable storage medium, the driver comprising:

a component identification module that is configured to receive a region code from a peripheral device that is controlled by the device driver, the region code identifying a particular geographical region, to access a database using the region code and a device model to determine the components that pertain to the geographical region and the peripheral device and therefore are available for use with the peripheral device, and to identify the determined components to a device user.

As an initial matter, Applicant reiterates that there is no legitimate suggestion or motivation in the prior art to modify Walker's system with the teachings of Maehara.

As a second matter, neither reference even *mentions* a "device driver". Given that fact, it is difficult to understand how the references render a claim directed to a "device driver" obvious. Regardless, neither reference teaches a device driver that comprises a component identification module that is configured to "receive a region code from a peripheral device that is controlled by the device driver, the region code identifying a particular geographical region", "access a database using the region code and a device model to determine the components that pertain to the geographical region and the peripheral device and therefore are available for use with the peripheral device" and "identify the determined components to a device user" at least for reasons described above in relation to claim 1.

f. Conclusion as to the Rejections Under Section 103

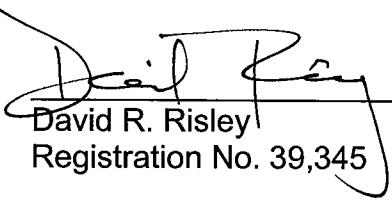
In view of the foregoing it is clear that (i) the references are not properly combinable and there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Walker's system in view of the Maehara reference, and (ii) even if there were proper suggestion/motivation, the references still fail to teach or suggest many of limitations of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejections are improper and should be overturned.

VIII. Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that Applicant's claims are patentable over the applied prior art references and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. Appellant therefore respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals overturn the Examiner's rejection and allow Applicant's pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claims Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

The following are the claims that are involved in this Appeal.

1. A method for implementing device regionalization, comprising:
 - identifying with a peripheral device a region code stored on a component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region; and
 - setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code.
2. (Canceled)
3. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a region code comprises reading a region code embedded within memory of a print cartridge that is installed within the peripheral device.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein setting a geographical region comprises storing the identified region code in memory of the peripheral device.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein setting a geographical region comprises locking the region code for the peripheral device such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein locking the region code comprises determining the number of pages that have been printed by the peripheral device and locking the region code if the number of pages reaches a predetermined threshold.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the region code to a user computer.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising accessing a database on the user computer that cross-references the region code with components available for use with the peripheral device to identify components that can be presented to a user for purchase.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein providing the region code comprises providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer and wherein accessing a database comprises accessing the database with the device driver.

10. A system for implementing device regionalization that executes on a peripheral device, the system comprising:

means provided on the peripheral device for reading a region code embedded within a device component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region; and

means provided on the peripheral device for setting a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

11. (Canceled)

12. The system of claim 10, further comprising means for providing the region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for setting a geographical region comprise means for determining the number of pages that have been printed and comparing that number with a predetermined threshold.

16. A system stored on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising:

logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region;

logic configured to store the read region code within peripheral device memory; and

logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a user computer.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is further configured to lock the region code on the peripheral device, such that only components intended for sale in the identified geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the peripheral device.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein logic configured to provide the region code is configured to provide the region code to the device driver when the device driver communicates with the peripheral device to send the peripheral device a print job.

20-23. (Canceled)

24. A peripheral device, comprising:

a processing device; and

memory including a region identification system that is configured to read a region code from an encoded component installed within the peripheral device, the region code identifying a particular geographical region, and to set a geographical region for the peripheral device to be the geographical region identified by the region code such that only components intended for sale in that geographical region can be used with the peripheral device.

25. The device of claim 24, wherein the region identification system is configured to set the region code for the peripheral device only after a predetermined criterion is satisfied.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the region identification system is configured to set the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been printed by the peripheral device.

27. A device driver stored on a computer-readable storage medium, the driver comprising:

a component identification module that is configured to receive a region code from a peripheral device that is controlled by the device driver, the region code identifying a particular geographical region, to access a database using the region code and a device model to determine the components that pertain to the geographical

region and the peripheral device and therefore are available for use with the peripheral device, and to identify the determined components to a device user.

28. The device driver of claim 27, wherein the component identification module is configured to identify a part or order number to the device user to enable the user to purchase a replacement component.

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.